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Underground Inside Russia, They Admit

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MOSCOW, July 22 (UPI).—The Soviet government today officially admitted that an anti-government underground organization is operating within Russia.

The admission came during the opening session of the trial of Gerald Brooke, 27, a British schoolteacher charged with coming here to help the clandestine organization. He pleaded guilty.

The organization was identified as the Popular Labor Alliance (NTS), a Paris-based organization of Russian emigres dedicated to overthrowing the Soviet government.

Mr. Brooke was arrested by KGB (Soviet Security) agents



GERALD BROOKE
In the Prisoner's Dock
UPI Radiotelephoto

in Moscow last April. He testified today he came to Russia as a secret agent for the organization.

The indictment said Mr. Brooke was to spread anti-Soviet literature and collect Moscow maps and intelligence data.

The indictment, in citing NTS activity during World War II, indicated the underground organization has been active here, off and on, for at least 25 years, despite government efforts to stamp it out.

The prosecutor said Mr. Brooke was caught "red-handed in the flat of a Muscovite, Yuri Konstantinov."

[In Paris, a spokesman for the NTS organization identified Konstantinov as a young Russian doctor arrested with Mr. Brooke.]

Judge Lev Almazov said that during the pre-trial investigation Mr. Brooke "fully admitted his guilt and stated that he repents." Mr. Brooke faces up to seven years in jail.

Almazov read an indictment claiming Mr. Brooke acted for the Popular Labor Alliance when he tried to hand over

printing equipment and leaflets calling for "the overthrow of Soviet power" to a Russian resident of Moscow.

The indictment claimed Mr. Brooke had been ordered by the NTS to gather "economic and political information" and hand it over to a secretary in the British embassy in Moscow.

The secretary was identified as Antony Bishop. The charges said Mr. Bishop was expected to relay Mr. Brooke's information to London in a diplomatic pouch.

The British Embassy immediately denied that Mr. Bishop was involved with Mr. Brooke in any way.